



Enhancing Diversity in the NCI Intramural Research Community



Intramural Continuing Umbrella of Research Experiences (iCURE) Prospective Applicants Fact Sheet

What Is the iCURE Program?

iCURE recruits cohorts of students and scientists from diverse backgrounds into the multidisciplinary environment of NCI and supports their mentored research experiences.

iCURE aims to enhance the diversity of the NCI intramural research workforce and strongly encourages the participation of individuals from groups that are underrepresented in the biomedical, clinical, behavioral, and social sciences, such as Blacks or African Americans, Hispanics or Latinos, American Indians or Alaska Natives, and Native Hawaiians and other Pacific Islanders, as well as individuals with disabilities and individuals from disadvantaged backgrounds in alignment with the Notice of NIH's Interest in Diversity ([NOT-OD-20-031](#)). iCURE is an extension of the NCI Center to Reduce Cancer Health Disparities' (CRCHD) highly successful extramural Continuing Umbrella of Research Experiences (CURE) training program. CURE supports the career progress of its scholars toward research independence and fosters diversity in the biomedical research pipeline.

What Does iCURE Offer?

The iCURE program provides:

- **Two-year awards** for postbaccalaureate (including post-master's) individuals
- **Two-year awards** for graduate students
- **Three-year awards** for postdoctoral fellows.

iCURE scholars will also enjoy professional and career support such as:

- Opportunities to work closely with world-class researchers at NCI
- Support from NCI program staff as well as resources on intramural and extramural funding opportunities
- Professional and career development activities
- Connections to an extensive mentoring network.

Am I Eligible?

Eligible candidates include:

- Postbaccalaureate (including post-master's) individuals, graduate students, and postdoctoral fellows
- Citizens, non-citizen nationals, and legal permanent residents of the United States.

iCURE strongly encourages the participation of individuals from underrepresented populations and is aligned with NCI's interest in diversity and the Notice of NIH's Interest in Diversity ([NOT-OD-20-031](#)).

Where Do I Learn More?

For more information about iCURE, eligibility, and how to apply, please visit:

www.cancer.gov/about-nci/organization/crchd/diversity-training/icure

Prospective candidates are strongly encouraged to contact Dr. Jessica Calzola and Dr. Gregory Adams, Jr. at iCURE@nih.gov

What Types of Research Experiences Does iCURE Offer?

iCURE scholars will enjoy research opportunities in the [Center for Cancer Research \(CCR\)](#), the [Division of Cancer Epidemiology and Genetics \(DCEG\)](#), and the [Division of Cancer Control and Population Sciences \(DCCPS\)](#).

CCR conducts basic and clinical cancer research and develops breakthrough discoveries into novel therapeutic interventions for adults and children afflicted with cancer or HIV.

DCEG is a global leader in cancer epidemiology and genetics research, and is uniquely positioned to conduct projects that are high risk in nature.

DCCPS both conducts and supports an integrated program of genetic, epidemiological, behavioral, social, applied, and surveillance cancer research.

AT A GLANCE

iCURE

Conduct research at the National Cancer Institute

Candidates

Postbaccalaureate (including post-master's) individuals, graduate students, and postdoctoral fellows

Diversity

iCURE strongly encourages the participation of individuals from underrepresented populations.

Submission Period

Fall 2023

Becoming an iCURE Scholar

You must submit an application to be considered for an iCURE research experience. Once your application has been submitted, it will be reviewed by iCURE program staff and NCI Principal Investigators (PIs) who are interested in being mentors.

You will complete several interviews during the matching process, both with iCURE staff and PIs. More than one PI may offer to interview you.

The application timeline is:



For more detailed information about the application process and program requirements, please visit the iCURE web page or email iCURE@nih.gov.

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Can I participate in iCURE and continue to conduct research at my current institution?

No. iCURE supports mentored research experiences within the NCI research campuses in Bethesda, Rockville, and Frederick, Maryland.

When do iCURE research experiences begin?

Target start date for iCURE cohorts is September 1 but can be flexible within reason.

I have a work permit/student visa. Am I eligible for an iCURE award?

No, iCURE can only support citizens, non-citizen nationals, and legal permanent residents of the U.S.

Do iCURE scholars get paid?

Yes, iCURE scholars receive standard stipends from NIH. For details on stipends, refer to the [Cancer Research Training Awards Manual](#).

Does iCURE pay for relocation or housing expenses?

No, iCURE does not provide relocation or housing costs.

Do I need to identify a mentor with whom I wish to work?

No, you do not need to identify or contact a PI or group when you apply to the iCURE program. iCURE will help you match with a mentor. However, we encourage you to let us know if there is a specific PI or project you are interested in.

Can I interview with more than one potential mentor?

Yes, you may be offered interviews with more than one PI. Additionally, more than one PI may express interest in you joining their group. You may choose to accept or decline the offers you receive.

What if the research group I am interested in isn't listed on the iCURE web page?

Please let us know the group you are interested in and we will follow up.

Do I need to submit written recommendations with my application?

No, you do not need to provide reference letters, only the required information in the application. We will contact references directly for recommendations.

Do I need to submit an official transcript by the application deadline?

No, you may provide an unofficial transcript when you apply. However, you may be asked to provide an official transcript at a later date.

What if I need more time to complete my research than the period of support iCURE offers?

iCURE PIs may choose to continue to support your research past the period of support iCURE provides. You will still be welcome to engage with iCURE staff and participate in iCURE activities.

I am currently an intramural trainee at NCI or another Institute or Center at NIH. Am I eligible to apply?

iCURE primarily aims to recruit individuals from diverse backgrounds from outside of NIH to conduct research at NCI. Individuals who are already conducting research at NIH may be considered on a case-by-case basis with strong justification. Individuals who are current Cancer Research Training Award/ Intramural Research Training Award fellows and who have been in their current position for longer than 12 months at the time of iCURE application are not eligible to apply. Individuals who already have committed funding support in the upcoming year are not eligible to apply.

Can I defer my iCURE program acceptance a year?

No. If you want to join the program at a later date, you must resubmit an application in the fiscal year that you plan to start.